supplied with sterilized gloves. No instance of recycling of syringes has been reported. The CT Scan which was out of order for want of CT Scan Tube, is functioning at present.

Conditions in Government Hospitals

452. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines/drugs/ortho items are generally not available in Central Government and the State Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to evaluate the situation;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to various other shortcomings existing in Government hospitals like LNJP, DDU, Safdarjung, as appearing in Hindustan Times, City dated 29th October, 1999; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of life saving, essential medicines and basic ortho itmes in Central Government hospitals and hospitals under Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d) The laboratory investigations and operation of equipments is done by trained technical personnel under the supervison of Consultants in laboratories and the other departments in Central Government hospitals in Delhi. In Safdarjung Hospital, six equipments of various departments are not functioning and action has been initiated to make them functional. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no such irregularities have come to notice in respect of hospitals under their administrative control.

Effectiveness of BCG Vaccine

453. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fifteen year study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research has come up with the revelation that India's only available tuberculosis vaccine (BCG) does not work;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the US stopped BCG as a vaccine many years ago; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The recently published ICMR report of